

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Page 1, lines 15-23, second full paragraph, should be amended as follows:

Gene therapy can be defined as the transfer of genetic material into a cell or an organism. The possibility of treating human disorders by gene therapy has changed in few years from the stage of theoretical considerations to that of clinical applications. The first protocol applied to man was initiated in the USA in September 1990 on a patient suffering from adenine deaminase (ADA) deficiency. This first encouraging experiment has been followed by numerous new applications and promising clinical trials based on gene therapy are currently ongoing. ~~(see for example clinical trials listed at <http://enctdb.nci.nih.gov/trialsrch.shtml> or <http://www.wiley.co.uk/genotherapy/clinical/>).~~